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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE OSCE
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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and has the honour to submit the reply of the Republic of Cyprus to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for 2024.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the OSCE Permanent Missions and Delegations of the OSCE participating States and to the CPC, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 29 May 2024



- Permanent Missions and Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE
- Conflict Prevention Centre

Vienna

REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

QUESTIONNAIRE

ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

A. Conventions

- (1) Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft - Tokyo 14/09/1963 - Ratification Law No. 31/1972
- (2) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft - The Hague 16/12/1970 - Ratification Law No. 30/1972
- (3) Convention for the Suppression of the Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation - Montreal 23/09/1971 - Ratification Law No. 37/1973
- (4) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Personnel - New York 14/12/1973 - Ratification Law No. 63/1975
- (5) European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism - Strasbourg 27/01/1977 - Ratification Law No. 5/1979
- (6) Convention against the Taking of Hostages - New York 17/12/1979 - Ratification Law No. 244/90
- (7) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials - Vienna 03/03/1980 - Ratification Law No. 3(III)/98
- (8) Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation - Rome 10/03/1988 - Ratification Law No. 17(III)/99
- (9) International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings 15/12/1997 - Ratification Law No. 19(III)/2000
- (10) International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism - New York 10/01/2000 - Ratification Law No. 29(III)/01
- (11) International Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection - Montreal 01/03/1991. - Ratification Law No. 19(III)/2002
- (12) Offences against the Safety of Civil Aviation - Montreal 23/09/1971 - Ratification Law No. 79/1973

- (13) European Convention on the Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes- 24/11/1983- Ratification Law No. 51(I)/1997
- (14) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto - Palermo - 12/12/2000 - Ratification Law No. 11(III)/2003
- (15) International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism- New York 13.04.2005 - Ratification Law No. 44(III)/2007
- (16) European Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime - Strasbourg 8.11.1990 - Ratification Law No. 18(III)/1995
- (17) European Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, Warsaw, 16 May 2005 - Ratification Law 51(III)/2007
- (18) European Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, -Ratification Law 22(III)/2010
- (19) European Convention on Cybercrime - Budapest 23/11/2001 - Ratification Law No.22(III)2004

B. Protocols

- (1) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms on the Continental Shelf - Rome 10/03/1988 - Ratification Law No. 17(III)/99
- (2) Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Aviation, complementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Aircraft - Montreal 24/02/1988. - Ratification Law No. 33(III)/01
- (3) The Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, Strasbourg 15.05.2003- Ratification Law No.18 (III)/2004.
- (4) Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems - Ratification Law No.26 (III)/2004

International Cooperation

- (1) European Convention on Extradition-Paris, 13.12.1957 - Ratification Law No. 95/1970
- (2) Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition-Strasbourg 15.10.1975 - Ratification Law No. 23/1979
- (3) Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition 17.3.1978 - Ratification Law No. 17/1984
- (4) European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Strasbourg 20.4.1959 - Ratification Law No. 2(III)/2000
- (5) Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters-Strasbourg 17.03.1978 - Ratification Law No. 2(III)/2000

- (6) Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters-Strasbourg 8.11.2001 - Ratification Law No. 5(III)/2012
- (7) The Extradition of Fugitives Law No. 97/1970
- (8) The International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Law No.23(I)/2001
- (9) The European Arrest Warrant Law No.133(I)/2004
- (10) Joint Investigation Teams Law No.244(I)/2004
- (11) European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters - 09/02/2000 - Ratification Law No.20(III)/2000
- (12) The European Police Office (Europol) Law No. 102(I)/2011
- (13) Convention on Mutual Judicial Assistance in Criminal matters among Member States (EEC 197 of 12.7.2000) and its protocol (EEC 326 of 21.11.2001) - Ratification Law 25(III)/2004 as amended by Law No.9(III)/2008

CBRN terrorism

Concerning the area of CBRN terrorism, Cyprus has ratified a number of relevant Conventions:

- (1) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (OPCW) - Geneva, 3 September 1992, Ratification Law No. 8(III)/1998
- (2) The Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban-Treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - New York, 24 September 1996, Ratification Law No. 32(III)/2003
- (3) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - Basel, 22 March 1989
- (4) Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal- Geneva 22 September 1995
- (5) Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater- Moscow, 5 August 1963, Ratification Law No. 13/1965
- (6) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-London, Moscow and Washington, 1 July 1968, Ratification Law No. 8/1970
- (7) Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof-London, Moscow and Washington, 29 March 1972, Ratification Law No.63/1974
- (8) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction - London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972, Ratification Law No.56/1973
- (9) Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident-Vienna, 26 September 1986
- (10) Convention on Nuclear Safety-Vienna, 20 September 1994, Ratification Law No.20 (III)/98

Protocols regarding CBRN Terrorism

- (1) Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime- New York 31 May 2001, Ratification Law No. 11(III)/2003
- (2) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare- Paris 17 June 1925

Other commitments

Other commitments undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation:

- (1) On 1 August 1975, Cyprus signed the concluding Document of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe known as the Helsinki Final Act.
- (2) In 1965 Cyprus became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ratification Law No. 21/1965
- (3) An Agreement was signed between the Republic of Cyprus and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT Treaty on 26 June 1972, Ratification Law No. 3/1973.
- (4) Cyprus signed in 1999 the Additional Protocol to the Agreement with the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT Treaty.
- (5) Cyprus co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 46/36L, as well as the subsequent ones, regarding the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.
- (6) Cyprus is a member of the Australia Group (AG) as of October 2000 and also participates to Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) as of April 2000.
- (7) Cyprus as a Member of the European Union applies EU Regulation 1334/2000 that establishes a system for the control of dual use goods. For the implementation of Regulation 1334/2000 the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism issued Ministerial Order 355/2002.
- (8) The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism issued the Defence (Arms Export Control) Order of 26 July 2002 for the compliance of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Export and to the Council Declaration of 13 June 2000. The order was replaced by Ministerial Order 257/2005 of 20 May 2005.
- (9) In 2002 a primary step was made towards the eradication of Small Arms and Light Weapons in surplus when approximately 4,500 weapons were destroyed. These arms included both pistols and rifles that were imported in early 1972 and were stockpiled, until their destruction, in appropriate warehouses, in compliance with all the safety specifications. This work was completed in close cooperation with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, which also provided invaluable technical assistance and aid for this purpose.

- (10) On 14/02/2002 the Criminal Code was amended by Law 12(1)/2002 to include a definition of a criminal organization according to the Common Act adopted by the Council of the European Union.
- (11) On 25 July 2005 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and Government of the United States of America signed a bilateral agreement concerning Cooperation to suppress the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by sea, Law No. 38(III)/2005
- (12) In June 2007, Cyprus joined the Global Initiative to Combat Acts of Nuclear Terrorism initiated by Russia and the USA that is an international partnership of 82 nations and 4 official observers working to improve capacity on a national and international level for prevention, detection, and response to a nuclear terrorist event.
- (13) Cyprus is a member of the International Initiative for Combating Nuclear Terrorism, which numbers 31 member-states.
- (14) The Republic of Cyprus, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), proceeded with the destruction of 324 Man Portable Air Defense Systems, 2SA - 7, from the 9th to the 12th of June 2009.

The Republic of Cyprus has also acceded to and participates in other bilateral agreements or measures undertaken to prevent and combat terrorist activities:

The antiterrorism policy of Cyprus lies on its commitment to join forces at EU level, with all governments on a bilateral level as well as in international fora in the fight against terrorism. Cyprus concluded bilateral police cooperation agreements, which, inter alia, provide for the exchange of information on terrorism or other related matters.

Furthermore, several of these agreements provide for cooperation on combating terrorism while others for police and/or judicial cooperation in criminal matters in general. These agreements are listed below:

- (1) Agreement between the Ministries of Interior of Cyprus and the Syrian Arab Republic in the fields of Crime and Illicit Trafficking and Smuggling of Drugs (4/04/1989) and its Protocols, Ratification Law 6(VII)/1992.
- (2) Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China on Public Security Matters, (18/10/1994), Ratification Law 24(VII)/1994.
- (3) Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of Interior of the Arab Republic of Egypt on Security Matters (7/6/1994), Ratification Law 16(VII)/1994.
- (4) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Israel in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Terrorism and other Serious Crimes (09/01/1995), Ratification Law 2(VII)/1995.
- (5) Agreement between Cyprus and Romania on Co-operation in the Fight Against International Crime (07/06/1995), Ratification Law No. 16(VII)/1995.
- (6) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, (13/06/1996), Ratification Law No. 6 (VII)/1996

- (7) Agreement on co-operation between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus and the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation (16/11/1999), Ratification Law No. 16 (VII)/1999
- (8) Agreement for Co-operation between the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus and the Federal Ministry of Interior of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Protocol, (7/12/1992), (Ratification Law No. 1(VII)/1993, which remains in force between Cyprus and the Czech Republic in accordance with the Exchange of Letters of 19 January 1999
- (9) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Malta on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (17/09/1999), Ratification Law No. 15(VII)/1999
- (10) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Italy on Co-operation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and other forms of Crime (28/06/2002), Ratification Law 22 (III)/2003
- (11) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Ireland on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Trafficking in Persons, Terrorism and other Serious Crime (8/3/2002), Ratification Law No. 34(III)/2002
- (12) Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Combating the Illicit Use of and the Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and Organized Crime, (15/05/2001) Ratification Law No. 7(VII)/2002.
- (13) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the Fight Against Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (04/12/2002), Ratification Law No. 28 (III)/2003.
- (14) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on co-operation in Combating Organized Crime and other forms of Crime (08/01/2004), Ratification Law No.13(III)/2004
- (15) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Lebanon on cooperation in combating the illicit use of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and Organized Crime (19/07/2002), Ratification Law No. 5(III)/2004
- (16) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Cooperation in the Fight Against Transborder and Organized Crime, Terrorism, Illegal Migration, Trade in Human Beings and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Substances (02/12/2003), Ratification Law No. 48 (III)/2004.
- (17) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Slovak Republic on Co-operation in Combating Organized Crime, Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as other Types of Crime (26/02/2004), Ratification Law No. 5(III)/2005
- (18) Agreement on Co-operation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of France on security matters, (04/03/2005), Ratification Law No. 49(III)/2005

- (19) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Organized Crime, (11/04/2005), Ratification Law No. 48(III)/2005
- (20) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Poland on co-operation in Combating Organized and other Forms of Crime (18/02/2005), Ratification Law No.34(III)/2005
- (21) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in Combating Crime, (16/06/2006), Ratification Law No. 20(III)/2006
- (22) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime and other Forms of Crime, (23/11/2006), Ratification Law No. 42(III)/2007
- (23) Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of India on Combating Organized Crime, International Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, (25/05/2007), Ratification Law No. 43(III)/2007
- (24) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, (30/04/2007), Ratification Law No. 41(III)/2007
- (25) Agreement on Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on Security Matters and police cooperation (3/12/2007), Ratification Law No. 13 (III)/2008.
- (26) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Immigration and Other Criminal Offences, (23/02/2009), Ratification Law 8(III)/2010
- (27) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on Police Cooperation. (14/07/2010) Ratification Law 20(III)/2011.
- (28) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Kuwait on cooperation in fighting terrorism, organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, illegal migration and other criminal offences" (08/10/2013), Ratification Law No. 3(III)/2014
- (29) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Uzbekistan (05/04/2012), Ratification Law No. 18(III)/2014.
- (30) Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Montenegro on Cooperation in Fighting Terrorism, Organized Crime, illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, Illegal Migration and Other Criminal Offences (20/03/2015) Ratification Law 5(III)/2016
- (31) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Russian Federation on Cooperation in Fighting Crime Especially in its Organized Form, (05/04/2016) Ratification Law No. 3(III)/2017. (Note: this agreement shall

enter into force following the exchange of Verbal Notes between the contracting parties.

- (32) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism (25/02/2015) Ratification Law No. 17(III)/2016
- (33) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the United States of America on enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime, (10/03/2017), Ratification Law No.5 (III)/2017. (Note: Articles 8 to 10 shall enter into force following the conclusion of the implementing agreement referenced in Article 10).
- (34) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cyprus Police and the Australian Federal Police on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation (27/09/2017)
- (35) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation on Public Security Issues (Signed 08/05/2018) Ratification Law 8(III)/2020)
- (36) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cyprus Police and Terrorist Screening Centre of the USA for the exchange of terrorism screening information.
- (37) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on cooperation in fighting terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, illegal immigration and other criminal offences (signed 14/4/2019, Ratification Law 2(III)/2020).

1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the abovementioned agreements and arrangements?

The Ratification Laws stated in answer 1.1 above, entail implementing provisions including the criminalization of certain acts.

Furthermore, the Combating of Terrorism Law of 2010 (No.110(I)/2010) was enacted to provide a comprehensive legal framework in the area of terrorism. This legislation aligns national law with the *acquis Communautaire*, in particular it transposes "*Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism*" as amended by "*Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA*" and contains an extensive list of the offences constituting a terrorist act, including the definition and offences on terrorist groups and the offences linked to terrorist activities. It also includes provisions regarding, inter alia, (a) the liability of legal persons, (b) inciting, aiding or abetting and attempting a terrorist act, (c) provision of support to terrorist groups etc including financing, (d) effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties, (e) extraterritorial jurisdiction, (f) the protection of and assistance to victims and (g) international cooperation.

The above-mentioned law was amended on March 2022, with the Law No. 39(I)/2022, in order to fully comply with the Directive 2017/541 on Combating Terrorism.

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Cyprus Police is continuously fighting terrorism by all means. The Counter Terrorism Office of Cyprus Police was established after the events of September 11th, 2001 due to the demands that followed both on the National and International level. The Counter Terrorism Office operates under the Combating Crime Department of Police Headquarters.

The Counter Terrorism Office is dealing with the analysing, evaluation and utilization of intelligence, the enforcement of measures on Combating Terrorism deriving from International Conventions, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the Lisbon Treaty, Regulations, Decisions, as well as other primary or subsidiary legislation of the European Union.

Furthermore, if it is necessary, the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) has the power to involve additional Police Units/Departments/Services for the prevention and combating terrorism related matters.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, Cyprus Police have taken the following additional preventive measures:

- Increased security measures at the entry and exit points of the Republic of Cyprus including additional checks of passengers and hand luggage at departure gates.
- Upgraded the already existing mechanisms and continues and reinforces the cooperation with other countries, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels
- Increased the guarding/patrolling and continuous surveillance of vulnerable and possible targets.
- Patrolling and surveillance of the coastal areas and territorial waters of Cyprus, by air and sea, so as to prevent and combat any illegal activity including the unlawful entry of terrorists into the Country.
- Checking/Surveillance of suspected illegal immigrants.
- Close cooperation with other relevant organizations and services.

The Cyprus Police also gives great emphasis in the area of international cooperation. Indeed the Counter Terrorism Office as well as the offices of Interpol and Europol of the Cyprus Police are closely cooperating with counterpart units of other countries in the framework of the universal effort to combat terrorism.

Additionally, in Cyprus Police, the Special Antiterrorist Squad (S.A.S.) of the Emergency Response Unit (E.R.U.) is specially trained in order to meet emergency situations such as terrorist acts. The S.A.S. Unit is trained alongside other International and European antiterrorist units.

1.4 Provide information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism not mentioned above, e.g., those pertaining *inter alia* to:

- Financing of terrorism

Cyprus Police is the competent Authority for the investigation of Financing of Terrorism Offences. The National Financial Investigation Unit MOKAS is responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating disclosures of suspicious transactions reports concerning suspected money laundering or financing of terrorism activities.

The National FIU was established according to section 54 of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Laws of 2007 to 2021 and became operational in January 1997. It functions under the Attorney General of the Republic and is composed of

representatives of the Attorney General, the Chief of Police, and the Director of the Department of Customs and Excise. The members of the Unit are appointed by detachment and the Unit is headed by a representative of the Attorney General. In relation to the composition of the Unit, the Law was amended in 2003 in order to include other professionals. As a result, the Unit recruited accountants and financial analysts.

The Unit, *inter alia*, has the following powers:

- It cooperates and exchanges information with other FIUs
- Issues guidance directives and provides training to financial institutions, the Police, professionals and others
- Issues administrative orders for the postponement of transactions
- Members of the Unit can apply and obtain court orders, ie, disclosure orders, freezing orders, confiscation orders
- Protect the privacy of the information it possesses

The Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Law provides for a mandatory reporting of suspicious transactions to MOKAS and the obligation to take the appropriate preventive measures (e.g. identification of customers, record keeping, and mandatory reporting) applied to all persons who are engaged in financial business, including lawyers and accountants.

The Unit may apply to the Court to obtain freezing, and disclosure orders. In addition, the Unit is engaged in policy issues in the area of anti-money laundering measures as well as in various awareness raising and training initiatives on the subject, involving both the public and the private sector. There is close co-operation between the credit and other financial institutions on the one hand and the Unit on the other, based on the relevant provisions of the Law as well as on guidance notes issued by the supervisory authorities of the financial institutions.

A representative of the Ministry of Finance and the Head of the FIU chair the meeting of the "Advisory Authority for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing", which is the Body on policy and coordination of the measures in this area. The functions of this Authority are the following:

- a. Inform the Council of Ministers of any measures taken and the general policy applied against money laundering and financing of terrorism offences;
- b. Advise the Council of Ministers about additional measures which, in its opinion, should be taken for the better implementation of this Law;
- c. Promote the Republic internationally as a country, which complies with all the conventions, resolutions and decisions of international bodies in respect of combating laundering and financing of terrorism offences.
- d. Designate the third countries outside the European Economic Area which impose procedures and take measures for preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism equivalent to those laid down by the EU Directive. For this purpose, it applies the relevant decision of the European Commission according to Article 40(4) of the EU Directive. Furthermore, it notifies the competent Supervisory Authorities who in turn notify the persons falling under their supervision of the said decision.

The Advisory Authority is composed of representatives of:

- a. The Unit of Combating Money Laundering;
- b. The Central Bank of Cyprus;
- c. All other Supervisory Authorities;
- d. The Ministry of Finance;
- e. The Ministry of Justice and Public Order;

- f. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- g. The Police;
- h. The Customs and Excise Department;
- i. The Association of Cyprus Commercial Banks;
- j. The Association of International Banks;
- k. The Cyprus Bar Association;
- l. the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus
- m. The Registrar of Companies;
- n. The Tax Commissioner;
- o. The National Betting Authority;
- p. The National Authority for Gambling and Casino Supervision;
- q. Any other Organization or Service the Council of Ministers may prescribe.

Regarding legislation pertaining in particular to terrorism financing, the Law Ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism which was enacted on 22.10.2001 (Ratification Law No. 29(III)/2001 as amended by Law No. 18(III)/2005) and Law No. 15(III)/2019 includes:

- (1) Settings of penalties for relevant criminal acts in the fulfilment of the obligations arising from provisions of the convention.
- (2) Inclusion in the National legislation, of provisions necessary for the enactment of provisions in the Convention, which are not self- implemented.
- (3) Determining, with the view to facilitating conformity with the provisions of the Convention, those criminal acts defined as such by the provisions of National legislation on concealment, investigation, and confiscation of assets from certain crimes.

The national legal framework on combating terrorism, including the financing of terrorism, was amended in 2019, with the adoption of the Law on Combating Terrorism and Protection of Victims (L.75 (I)/2019). This legislation aligns national law with the EU Acquis in this area, transposing into the national legislation the Council Framework Decision 2005/671/JHA and Directive 2017/541 on Combating Terrorism. Furthermore, the Republic of Cyprus fully implements the eight Special recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations on Terrorism Financing in the field of terrorist financing.

The Law provides an extensive analysis of the offences constituting a terrorist act, the punishment of such crimes and issues dealing with international co-operation. It also addresses the requirements set out in the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014), dated 24/9/2014, on countering the phenomenon of foreign fighters.

In particular, the afore-mentioned Law, provides, among others, the following:

Section 8: Provision of support to a terrorist group and other persons

- (a) A person who provides support in any way to
 - 1/ Terrorist group, or
 - 2/ a member of a terrorist group; or
 - 3/ any other person, for the benefit of a terrorist group or member of a terrorist group, or
 - 4/ any other person committing a terrorist offense; or
 - 5/ any person who is included in the lists;

with knowledge of the fact that this support will contribute to the activities of the persons mentioned above and are linked to the commission of terrorist offenses, is guilty of an offence

and, in case of conviction, is subject to imprisonment of not more than eight (8) years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand (€ 150,000) euros or both penalties. [...]

(4) A person who intentionally provides or collects funds, by any means, directly or indirectly, with the intention that they be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used in full or in part, to commit or to contribute to the commission of any of the offences referred to in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 (1), 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, is guilty of an offense and, in in case of conviction, shall be subject to imprisonment not exceeding (8) eight years or to fine not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand euros (€ 150,000) or both these penalties.

It is understood that, where the terrorist financing referred to in paragraph 1 of this Section concerns any of the offences laid down in Sections 5, 6, 7, 12 and 15, it shall not be necessary that the funds be in fact used, in full or in part, to commit, or to contribute to the commission of, any of those offences, nor shall it be required that the offender knows for which specific offence or offences the funds are to be used.

Section 23: Freezing of funds, monetary assets data etc.

(1) A person carrying on the activities of a liable entity as defined in paragraphs (a) to (e) of Section 2A of the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering, directly freezes all funds, monetary assets and financial resources which are -

- (a) owned or controlled by the designated person or entity;
- (b) owned or controlled, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly by the designated person or entity,
- (c) derived from funds or other assets owned by or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the designated person or entity,
- (d) owned or controlled by a person or entity acting on or under instructions of the designated person or entity.

(2) A person not included in subsection (1) of this Section shall freeze all funds, monetary assets and incoming financial resources in his possession, for which he knows or has good reason to believe that they fall within the cases referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of subsection (1).

(3) A person who violates any of the obligations set forth herein, is guilty of an offence and, if convicted, is subject to -

- (a) In the case of a natural person sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding eight (8) years or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (€ 50,000) or in these two sentences, and
- (b) in the case of a legal person, a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand euros (€ 500,000).

(4) For the purposes of this Section, " designated person or entity" means any natural or legal person, group or entity included in a list, including a person, group or entity falling within the provisions of Article 4 of the European Union Act entitled 'Council Common

Position of 27 December 2001 implementing special measures to combat terrorism (2001/931 / CFSP)

". Funds means "...assets of every kind, tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, however acquired, and legal documents or instruments in any form, including electronic or digital evidencing title of or interest in, such assets, including bank loans, traveller's checks, bank checks, money orders, shares, securities, bonds, foreign monetary exchange and letters of credit".

Further to the above, Section 24 provides that "a person carrying on the activities of a liable entity as defined in paragraphs (a) to (e) of Section 2A of the Law on the Prevention and

Combating of Money Laundering, reports accordingly to the appropriate Supervisory Authority and the said Supervisory Authority shall report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs all frozen assets or any action that has been taken in relation to compliance with the prohibition requirements of the European Union and the United Nations Security Council, as referred to in Section 25”

The Law on Combating Terrorism and Protection of Victims (L.75 (I)/2019) entails also implementing provisions regarding “Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism”, as well as “Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 of 27 May 2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 467/2001 prohibiting the export of certain goods and services to Afghanistan, strengthening the flight ban and extending the freeze of funds and other financial resources in respect of the Taliban of Afghanistan”. In particular, Sections 20 and 21 of the law criminalize the infringement of the provisions of these Regulations and determine the penalties to be imposed to natural persons as well as to legal persons in these cases.

The penalties provided for in these Sections in case of conviction are imprisonment not exceeding eight years and/or fine not exceeding €50.000 with regard to natural persons and a fine not exceeding €500.000 with regard to legal persons. Similar provisions and penalties are provided for in Section 22 of the Law, with respect to the infringement of the UN Security Council Resolutions relating to the combating of terrorism.

The Law provides also for the circulation and monitoring of the updates of the UN and EU sanctions lists (Section 25).

It is noted that a person or entity whose funds, other financial assets or other economic resources have been frozen pursuant to the UN and EU lists, may challenge such a measure before the Supreme Court of Cyprus under Article 146 of the Constitution, acting as an Administrative Court and may claim damages or compensation for any costs or damage sustained. In particular, Article 146 of the Constitution, which is the principal provision creating competence in administrative law, provides that the Supreme Court “shall have exclusive jurisdiction to adjudicate finally on a recourse made to it on a complaint that a decision, act or omission of any organ, authority, or person exercising any executive or administrative authority is contrary to any of the provisions of this Constitution or of any law or is made in excess or in abuse of powers vested in such organ or authority or person”.

With regard to the implementation of certain provisions of the EU and UN sanctions instruments, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus, pursuant to a relevant proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, decided to establish an Advisory Committee with competency to grant specific authorisations for (a) use of frozen funds for essential human needs, (b) payments from frozen funds for specified purposes, or (c) unfreeze funds, other financial assets or other economic resources (Council of Ministers Decision No.72.222A, dated 17/6/2011). This is consistent with S/Res/1452 (2002).

This Committee is chaired by the Minister of Finance and is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Bank of Cyprus, the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission and the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS).

It is noted that the Central Bank of Cyprus has in place a strict regulatory framework aimed at preventing abuse within the financial sector for terrorist financing purposes

- Border controls

The details of individuals that are sanctioned for terrorist activities by the United Nations Council Resolutions or by primary or subsidiary legislation of the European Union, are registered on the national database "Stop-list" by the Counter-Terrorism Office of Crime Combating Department. Further, the details of people that are suspected for terrorist purposes are registered on the national database "Alert-list."

The Cyprus Police Counter Terrorism Office also co-operates with the Police Aliens and Immigration Unit (Headquarters of the Department, the District Immigration Departments and the Airports and Ports).

The major duties and responsibilities of the Aliens and Immigration Department are:

- Effectively control aliens at entry and exit points (Airports and Ports) of the Republic of Cyprus
- Combat illegal immigration and illegal employment of aliens by locating, apprehending and deporting illegal or wanted aliens
- Prevent illegal immigration to the territory of the Republic of Cyprus
- Control aliens who are employed in Cyprus
- Combat illegal immigration flows to Cyprus as well as to other member states of the EU by collecting and exchanging intelligence

Border control is carried out by Police Aliens and Immigration Department, Police Security Services, Port and Marine Police and the Air Aviation Unit.

The border surveillance at the sea borders where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus exercises effective control is carried out by a common Radar System and in case where a vessel is moving suspiciously, Cyprus Police Aviation Unit and Port and Marine Police are immediately informed and measures are taken in order to investigate the case.

- Travel document security

The border control at the entry/exit points of the Republic of Cyprus is carried out by the Aliens and Immigration Unit. Within this framework, border control officers carry out checks in order to prevent and combat the use of false/falsified documents. If it is necessary travel documents checks are carried out on two levels according to EU standards. It must be mentioned that existing mechanisms were upgraded for travel document security, e.g. Installation of the Interpol "FIND" system and Europol Information System (EIS) at entry / exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.

Any information for forged/falsified documents that may be used for terrorist activities are forwarded by the Counter-Terrorism Office to the Aliens and Immigration Unit.

- Container and supply chain security

- Security of radioactive sources

Security of the limited number of radioactive sources that exist in the Republic of Cyprus is provided by the Ministry of Labor. This Ministry has prepared an action plan for this purpose.

- Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes

The Counter-Terrorism Office of Crime Combating Department is nominated as contact point to the EU IRU, and participates in the Analytical File "Check the Web" of Europol by

contributing and exchanging information for the prevention of the communication of terrorists or terrorism messages through the internet.

- Legal co-operation including extradition

Please refer to point 1.1 (International cooperation)

- Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations

Please refer to points 1.3 and 1.4.

- Other information

- The National Counter Terrorism Coordinator:

On 2010, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus appointed the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order as the National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (NCTC), to enable Cyprus to better fulfil its obligations that emanate particularly from EU actions in this field.

The NCTC is responsible for:

- Advising the Government on policymaking with regard to the prevention/combating terrorism.
- Representing the Government on EU and International fora
- Coordinating and supervising the implementation of the international and European obligations of the Republic on issues of terrorism, including EU Action Plans related to terrorism. For this purpose, the NCTC decided the establishment of a National Counterterrorism Strategy and is supervising the work of the ad hoc team to which he assigned this project.

- National Counter Terrorism Strategy

In 2015, the national CT Strategy was officially approved by the Council of Ministers. The strategy complies with the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy and is focused on four main pillars: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. Some actions implementing the four pillars of the strategy are currently ongoing while others are under development/consideration. Since 2020 we are in the process of updating the strategy.

• Prevent

A systematic training of first line officers and NGOs on preventing radicalization is implemented with special emphasis attributed to community policing, prisons and social services.

The Republic of Cyprus continues to benefit from its participation to the Radicalization Awareness Network of the European Commission (RAN POLICE, RAN HEALTH, RAN PRISON) in gaining further knowledge and expertise in countering radicalization and recruitment.

Cyprus is also an active participant in a multilateral program on reducing the use of the internet by terrorists through the exchange of best practices with other countries.

• Protection

The exchange of information between competent national authorities through their participation in a newly established forum "fusion center" has resulted in the identification

of potential threats and also advocated for the adoption of security measures especially at critical infrastructures, soft targets embassies, etc.

- **Pursue**

The aim of the third pillar is to pursue terrorists across borders and bringing them to justice, while respecting human rights and international law.

Cyprus Police implements the necessary instruments available to obtain and analyze information, arrest and prosecute terrorist suspects.

A process has also been initiated for reviewing the national legal framework for countering terrorism in light of the worrying developments in the field of terrorism and also to effectively address the phenomenon of foreign fighters.

- **Respond**

Contingency plans are prepared and revised accordingly by all competent authorities. These plans are ready to be implemented in order to face the consequences of a possible terrorist attack.

- **Additional measures**

Cyprus Police following the latest terrorist attacks in Europe and the increased threat related with ISIS and foreign fighters phenomenon, has implemented a number of additional measures:

- Special training programs prepared and delivered to border security and crossing points officers related with the profile and the identification of foreign fighters (jihadists).
- Existing mechanisms were upgraded, and reinforced for a quick and direct exchange of information with other countries and institutions. (Installation of the Europol information System (EIS).
- Security measures were increased at the entry and exit points of the Republic and at the crossing points to and from the Turkish occupied areas of the Republic.
- Continual guarding, patrolling and surveying of possible identified targets (soft targets, critical infrastructures, embassies, airports etc.).
- Strict passport scrutiny at the arrival and departure of passengers at airports and ports. (Installation of Interpol "FIND" system at entry / exit points of the Republic of Cyprus.)
- Patrolling and surveying of the coastal areas under the control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus by aerial and naval means.
- Increased checking / surveying of suspected illegal immigrants.
- Extensive check of the illegal immigrants' personal details and dactyloscopic data in national and international databases.
- Thorough interviews and surveys of persons that may be identified with certain risk indicators (age, wounds, etc), with regards to foreign fighters profile.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

The Republic of Cyprus does not currently maintain any armed forces stationed on the territory of other participating States.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence - and security - building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

All actions undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus, in the context of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures, are duly notified to the Member States of the OSCE, through the OSCE communications network, but also at the relevant meetings of the Forum for Security and Cooperation. Thus, in the spirit of good faith, openness and transparency, Cyprus notifies all States of its initiatives in the aforementioned areas.

The Republic of Cyprus has signed and ratified the following Conventions, in the field of disarmament:

- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (OPCW) - Geneva, 3 September 1992, Ratification Law No. 8(III)/1998
- The Comprehensive Nuclear - Test - Ban-Treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - New York, 24 September 1996, Ratification Law No. 32(III)/2003
- Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Underwater - Moscow, 5 August 1963, Ratification Law No. 13/1965
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - London, Moscow and Washington, 1 July 1968, Ratification Law No. 8/1970
- Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof- London, Moscow and Washington, 29 March 1972, Ratification Law No.63/1974
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction - London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972, Ratification Law No.56/1973
- Convention on Nuclear Safety-Vienna, 20 September 1994, Ratification Law No.20 (III)/98

In addition:

- An Agreement was signed between the Republic of Cyprus and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the NPT Treaty on 26 June 1972, Ratification Law No. 3/1973 and in 1999 Cyprus signed the Additional Protocol to the Agreement.
- Cyprus co-sponsored the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 46/36L, as well as the subsequent ones, regarding the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.
- Cyprus signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Development, Transfer, Production and Stockpiling of Cluster Munitions was signed in New York on the 23rd September 2009.

In the field of combating illicit trafficking of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their delivery means and related materials, Cyprus participates in 2 export control regimes, namely «The Australia Group» and «The Nuclear Suppliers Group». It also participates to the Proliferation Security Initiative and on 25 July 2005 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and Government of the United States of America signed a bilateral agreement concerning Cooperation to suppress the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by sea, Law No. 38(III)/2005.

3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence - and security - building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.

As an active member of the OSCE, the Republic of Cyprus participates in initiatives and activities, in relation to arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building measures.

Cyprus is also engaged in fully implementing the provisions of International Treaties and the Resolutions of International Organizations, to which it is a full member. In addition, Cyprus pursues an export control policy in full compliance with the EU regulations and the Policies of the Export Control Regimes in which it participates.

Confidence - building measures and transparency are applied through reporting and exchanging of information in the framework of Cyprus' participation in International Organisations, Regimes and Treaties.

In the framework of the OSCE, Cyprus has hosted 4 contact visits for OSCE personnel over the past years. These activities included visits to major military facilities, as well as air bases where appropriate, and are summarized as follows:

- June 2001: 42 Participants from 27 OSCE pS.
- June 2006: 36 Participants from 22 OSCE pS.
- May 2009: 29 Participants from 17 OSCE pS.
- May 2016: 30 Participants from 17 OSCE pS.
- Sep 2022: 35 Participants from 20 OSCE Ps.

With regard to arms control and disarmament, the Republic of Cyprus, recognizing the threats from the unauthorized proliferation and use of Man Portable Air Defence Systems, proceeded with the destruction of 246 Man Portable Air Defence Systems, Mistral 1 Block 1, in 2023. In addition, Cyprus in Cooperation with Specialized Company, destroyed 381 tons of propellants, in 2023.

The National Guard's Centre for the Laboratory Testing of Gunpowder and Ammunition, since the start of its operation, has conducted a significant number of tests on ammunition propellants. These tests are conducted according to international standards, in order to evaluate the chemical stability of ammunition and achieve their categorization based on quality. All tests are conducted on a priority basis for the ammunition which is used in training activities, whilst all testing procedures concerning the accreditation of the Centre are carried out according to the ISO 17025 standard.

As far as the antipersonnel landmines are concerned, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus cleared all minefields in the area under its effective control, including within the buffer zone, by 1st July 2013, which was the deadline set by the Anti - personnel Mine Ban Convention.

The only area in Cyprus where mined areas containing anti - personnel mines are known to exist is the part of its territory which remains under Turkish military occupation and which is not accessible to the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus. At least 21 minefields laid and maintained in the occupied areas by the Turkish forces are yet to be cleared of anti - personnel mines and one of them is situated within the buffer zone, in the vicinity of the village Deryneia.

The Republic of Cyprus, having taken concrete steps to ensure the destruction of anti - personnel mines in the areas occupied by Türkiye, submitted to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) information on 28 known minefields, which were laid prior to the 1974 Turkish invasion. Concerning these minefields, UNFICYP initially informed the Republic of Cyprus that only 3 required further technical surveys, whilst according to the latest assessment of UNMAS, these minefields are now accepted as free from Explosive Hazards.

While the Republic of Cyprus maintains jurisdiction over the whole of the island, it is prevented from exercising effective control over those areas under Turkish military occupation, and is thus unable to fulfil its obligations stemming from the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC).

As a result, Cyprus requested and was granted an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti - personnel mines by the 1st of July 2025.

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/ approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

Military Posture

According to the Constitutional Provision (Article 54), the President and the Council of Ministers exercise the executive power, in matters concerning defence and security.

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for the formation and implementation of Defence Policy. It participates in the wider Policy implemented by the Government and supports the Minister of Defence in fulfilling his responsibilities to the House of Representatives. In this framework, the Minister of Defence maintains the general oversight of the army, and is responsible for the implementation of the National Guard Law.

Additionally, the Chief of the National Guard is responsible to the Minister of Defence for the Command in general and for the supervision of the National Guard, which includes the organization, training, readiness, discipline, safety and order, in the framework of the guidelines given by the Minister of Defence or the Council of Ministers.

The House of Representatives, after consideration and discussion, passes laws concerning the operation and the responsibilities of the members of the Armed Forces.

Defence Expenditure

According to the provisions of the Constitution, the defence and the defence budget fall under the competence of the President of the Republic, the House of Representatives, the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Defence.

Funds collected by virtue of the Special Contribution (Defence of the Republic) Law (Law No. 5/85) are used for the purchase of defence equipment. According to the Law (Law No. 9(1)/2000), both the Fund for the Defence of the Republic and the Management Committee for the Fund were abolished, and thus, all the Special Contributions for the Defence of the Republic collected now, are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of the Republic.

The procurement process of defence equipment follows the procedures established by the 2011 Law as amended and relevant Regulations, concerning Defence and Security Tenders (No.173(I)/ 2011), for the purpose of harmonisation with the EC Directive 2009/81, by virtue of

which, a Defence and Security Tenders Council is set up, in order to deal with issues concerning the procurement of defence and security concerned equipment.

The Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the National Guard compiles the annual defence budget and submits it to the House of Representatives for approval. The approval thereof takes place after detailed study of each item concerning the defence planning. Thus, the House of Representatives exercises immediate control over the financial issues of the National Guard.

1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

The military capabilities of the Republic of Cyprus are strictly designated to provide for the following:

- To preserve peace on the island by creating the necessary level of deterrence against any kind of military threat and to reinforce the required security conditions needed for Cypriot citizens to live, prosper and contribute to the Republic's economic growth and welfare.
- To defend the Republic's territorial integrity, national independence and sovereignty and to provide for the security of its people from any armed attack or threat.

Based on the above requirements, the National Guard Units maintain a defensive arsenal, which does not provide the capabilities for the transfer and deployment of forces outside our national territory, and thus, the legitimate security concerns of other States are not challenged in any manner.

It is clear that the major threat for the Republic of Cyprus is the existence of Turkish occupation forces on its sovereign territory. However, Cyprus, aligned with the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, acknowledges the following, as significant threats to the international order and comprehensive security:

- The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Terrorism.
- Regional conflicts.
- The failure of States.
- Organized Crime.
- Interruption of energy supply.
- Cyber attacks.
- Climate change.

Therefore, Cyprus, being a member of the EU that is situated in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, supports within her capabilities, international and regional peace and security, as follows:

- In the framework of Common Security Defence Policy, the Republic of Cyprus supports the maintenance of European Military Capabilities. Thus, Cyprus is a troop contributing country to the HELBROC European Battlegroup and participates in the EU operations EUNAVFOR MED «IRINI», ATALANTA and EUMAM Ukraine, with 3 officers.

- Cyprus offers facilities to countries participating in the Maritime Task Force of the UN Peace Keeping Mission in Lebanon, as well as appropriate infrastructure for the encampment and medical treatment of their forces. In addition, 2 National Guard personnel are currently serving at the Naqoura FHQ of UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon.

- Cyprus confirms every 3 months its commitment to contribute to the United Nations Standby Arrangements System with military personnel.

It is worth noting that the Republic of Cyprus contributed to the work of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the United Nations on eliminating Syria's chemical weapons program by hosting the support base of the Joint OPCWUN Mission and by providing support to the ships of the countries involved in maritime operations, in the framework of bilateral settlements. Moreover, during the crisis in Lebanon in the summer of 2006, Cyprus provided infrastructure and other facilities to the United Nations, for the deployment of UNIFIL personnel.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

(a) Armed Forces

The control of the armed forces is ensured by the Constitution and the National Guard Law (2011). According to their provisions:

- The Armed Forces are under civilian control both in peacetime and during time of war.
- The President and the Council of Ministers exercise the executive power, in matters concerning defence and security. The President retains the right, to veto any Law or Decision adopted by the Parliament, provided that they concern the following:
 - The declaration of war or the stipulation of peace.
 - The structure and number of the Armed Forces.
 - The appointment and promotion of personnel.
 - The import of military equipment.
 - The provision of Bases and other facilities to friendly countries.
 - Issues of security, distribution and allocation of security forces, emergency measures and Military Law.
- The Council of Ministers may issue Regulations, concerning matters of promotion, appointment, chain of command, retirement, resignation, disciplinary misconduct and other procedures.
- The Minister of Defence maintains the general oversight of the Armed Forces, as well as the responsibility, for the implementation of the National Guard Law.
- The House of Representatives pass the Laws that concern the Armed Forces.
- The Minister of Defence informs the House of Representatives on all defence issues, and may appear, if requested, before any relevant Parliamentary Committee.

(b) Paramilitary forces: Cyprus has no paramilitary forces.

(c) Internal security forces: Cyprus has no internal security forces.

(d) Intelligence Services

Since May 2016 Cyprus Intelligence Service (CIS) operates as an independent Authority, based on the Law 75(I)/2016 enacted by the House of Representatives in the same year. CIS's

mission is to search for, collection, evaluation, analysis, processing and disclosure of information, to the competent authorities, on a case-by-case basis. This information must concern:

- the protection and promotion of the national and state interests of the Republic;
- the prevention and management of activities, which constitute a threat against the security and sovereignty of the Republic; and
- the prevention and combating of activities of terrorist organization and of organized crime

(e) Police

The Cyprus Police is a governmental body and since 1993 it forms part of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. Previously (1960- 1993), the Police was under the auspices of Ministry of Interior.

The Cyprus Police functions on the basis of the following legislation:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus
- The Police Law (73(I)/2004)
- The Police Regulations, including Promotion and Disciplinary Regulations
- The Police Standing Orders, which are issued by the Chief of Police
- The Criminal Law (Cap.154)
- The Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 155), concerning prosecution and relevant court procedures.

It is important to note that in accordance with the Constitution, the Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief of Police are appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus.

Also, the Police carries out its duties in conformity with the national legal framework, international treaties and conventions to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, as well as the European Union acquis related to police matters.

According to the Police Law (article 6, L.73(I)/2004), the Cyprus Police has the authority to carry out its mission throughout the territory of the Republic of Cyprus for:

- The Maintenance of Law and Public Order
- The Preservation of peace
- The Prevention and detection of crime
- The Apprehension and prosecution of offenders

The main powers mentioned in the Police Law include:

- Search
- Arrest
- Detention
- Interrogation
- Other powers specifically vested within the Police by virtue of any law in force.

It should be noted that the Cyprus Police is the main Law enforcement Body in the Republic. The Customs and Excise Department as well as the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) also have law enforcement authorities.

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

(a) Armed Forces

The Armed Forces are under political control, both during peace and wartime. The following institutions, foreseen by the Constitution, exercise their democratic control:

- The President of the Republic
- The House of Representatives
- The Council of Ministers
- The Minister of Defence

(b) Police

It is ensured through the applicable Constitutional and legislative provisions and their enforcement through the Courts of the Republic of Cyprus if required. The following institutions, foreseen by the Constitution, exercise their democratic control:

- The President of the Republic
- Attorney General
- The House of Representatives
- The Council of Ministers
- The Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- The Ombudsman that provides consultation on the legitimacy of the administrative acts.
- Independent Authority for the Investigation of allegation and complaints against the Police.
- Personal and Data Protection Commissioner
- Children Rights Commissioner

Moreover, within the Police there is the Professional Standards, Audit and Inspection Directorate.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

The Cyprus Constitution Article 129 provides for the establishment of a military force, the size of which should not exceed two thousand men, sixty per cent of which to be Greek Cypriot and forty per cent Turkish Cypriot.

Tasks and powers of the Cyprus Army are defined in the Basic Law (No. 8/1961) providing for the establishment of the Cyprus Army, as well as in the subsequent Laws amending the Basic Law (Nos. 16/1962, 51/1963, 77/1966, 46/1973, 46/1975, 80/1981, 34/1983). The above Laws were amended and unified by Military of the Republic Law No. 36(I)/2016.

The situation in Cyprus, after the outbreak of inter - communal violence in 1963, which continued in 1964, created the need to establish a separate military force to support the Cyprus Army and the Security Forces and led to the establishment of the National Guard.

The National Guard Law No 19(I)/2011 governs the operation of the Cyprus National Guard for conscripts and reservists, and provides that the National Guard operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence, with the stated mission to:

«Provide assistance to the Army and the security forces of the Republic, through the adoption of all necessary measures to safeguard the defence of the Republic, in order to counter the threat of invasion or any other act directed against the independence and sovereignty of the Republic, or that threatens the security of life or property of the citizens of the Republic»

The need to maintain the National Guard's operational readiness remains to this day, because of the Turkish invasion of 1974 and the ongoing military occupation of 36.2% of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

Military Service

Compulsory military service was first introduced in 1964 with the National Guard Law (no. 20/1964). According to the current National Guard Law, all citizens of the Republic between the ages of 18 and 50 are obliged to serve in the National Guard of the Republic.

Recruitment procedures or calling up to service in the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus, are defined in the National Guard Law and the relevant Regulations stipulating the extent of compulsory military service, types of military service and procedures for the calling up of civilians for compulsory military service. Enlistment in the National Guard is conducted upon a decree of the Minister of Defence, which is publicized in the gazette of the Republic.

Military Service is compulsory for all male citizens. Recently, the compulsory conscript service was reduced to 14 months, following a relevant Ministerial Council Decision and the introduction of professional service personnel (men and women) into the National Guard, in the framework of the restructuring and reorganization of the force.

Military Service commences in the year that individuals reach the age of 18. From then on, male citizens who complete their compulsory conscript service, continue to serve in the armed forces as reservists until they reach the age of 50. Men over 50 and women over 18 are appointed to the Civil Defence.

Pre-requisites for recruitment in the Cyprus Police

Vacant positions in the Cyprus Police are published in the official gazette of the Republic of Cyprus and any interested individual may apply.

POLICE CONSTABLES

Candidates must-

- (a) Be citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.
- (b) Submit satisfactory character references. If she/he has previously served in the Army of the Republic of Cyprus, the National Guard, the Public Service or has held any government position or a position in any organization of public law or in any Police Service or Force, then s/he must present satisfactory evidence that during the work period in question s/he was of good conduct.

- (c) Be over eighteen years of age and not older than thirty-five, unless s/he has served previously as a member of the Cyprus Police up to the date that the current Regulations came into effect:
Provided that the provisions of this subparagraph do not apply for regular special constables or special constables who are candidates for recruitment or appointment to the Police.
- (d) Be certified, following an examination by a government medical officer, to be of good health, sound in mind and body and physically and mentally fit to perform his/her duties on recruitment. In addition to other criteria it must also be certified that s/he:
 - (i) has good eyesight with or without the use of spectacles and good hearing without the use of hearing aids;
 - (ii) is not colour blind, not flatfooted, does not suffer from any form of physical handicap and does not have any impairment or deformity on his/her body or any part of it, and
 - (iii) is of general physical and mental fitness.
- (e) Be of a height not less than 1.65m for men and 1.60m for women.
- (f) Hold a leaving certificate from an accredited secondary school or a diploma or degree from a post-secondary, tertiary level institution.
- (g) Have a good knowledge of the Greek language and a satisfactory knowledge of one foreign language.
- (h) Have passed a written examination, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Police (General) Regulations and has achieved a total score of at least 50% on average, and a score of at least 40% in each of the subjects included in the examination.
- (i) Have passed physical fitness tests, conducted by a Committee especially set up for this purpose. The tests and the required standards for success are presented below.
- (j) Have fulfilled their military service obligations, or has been legally discharged from them, but not for health reasons.
- (k) Not have been discharged or his/her services were not terminated in the Public Service of the Republic in the past, or a body of public law on account of a criminal offence or a breach of discipline.
- (l) Be able to provide information which may be requested of them regarding their past or former employment, or any other issue that may relate to their recruitment to the Police. If any candidate makes any false declaration in his/her application or in relation to his/her application for appointment, and subsequently is appointed to the Police, s/he has committed a criminal offence, and in case of conviction, he/she will be dismissed from the Police.
- (m) Have a Body Mass Index of less than thirty (30): Provided that, the Body Mass Index is calculated by dividing the body weight of the candidate, in kilos, by his/her height in metres, squared ($BMI = \frac{\text{weight kg}}{\text{m}^2}$).
- (n) Have passed the psychometric examination conducted by the Committee appointed by the Chief of Police for this purpose and consists of a Senior Police Officer, one (1) registered psychiatrist and two (2) registered clinical psychologists or one (1) registered clinical psychologist and one (1) psychologist holding an academic position, provided that there is one available in the Republic.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Candidates for appointment to the Police as Special Constables must:

- (a) Be citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.
- (b) Submit satisfactory character and conduct references.
- (c) Be over eighteen years of age.
- (d) Be certified, following an examination by a government medical officer, to be of good health, sound in mind and body and physically and mentally fit to perform the duties s/he will be assigned following recruitment. In addition to other criteria, it must also be certified that s/he:
 - (i) has good eyesight with or without the use of spectacles and good hearing without the use of hearing aids;
 - (ii) is not colour blind, not flatfooted, does not suffer from any form of physical handicap and does not have any impairment or deformity on his/her body or any part of it, and
 - (iii) is of general physical and mental fitness.
- (e) Hold a leaving certificate from an accredited secondary school.
- (f) Have passed a written examination, conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Special constables (Procedures for Appointment and Terms of Service) Regulations and has achieved a total score of at least 50% on average, and a score of at least 40% in each of the subjects included in the examination.
- (g) Be able to provide information which may be requested of them regarding their past or former employment, or any other issue that may relate to their appointment to the Police: Provided that if any candidate makes any false declaration in his/her application or in relation to his/her application for appointment, and subsequently is appointed to the Police, s/he has committed a criminal offence, and in case of conviction will be dismissed from the Police.
- (h) Have fulfilled their military service obligations, or have been legally discharged from them, but not due to health reasons.
- (i) Not have been discharged or his/her services were not terminated in the Public Service of the Republic or a body of public law on account of a criminal offence or breach of discipline.
- (j) Have not been convicted of a serious offence that entails lack of integrity or moral indecency.
- (k) Have passed physical fitness tests conducted by a Committee especially set up for this purpose. The tests and the required levels for success are set out below.
- (l) Have a Body Mass Index of less than thirty (30): Provided that, the Body Mass Index is calculated by dividing the body weight of the candidate, in kilos, by his/her height in meters, squared ($BMI = \text{weight kg/m}^2$).
- (m) Have passed the psychometric examination conducted by the Committee appointed by the Chief of Police for this purpose and consists of a Senior Police Officer, one (1) registered psychiatrist and two (2) registered clinical psychologists or one (1) registered clinical psychologist and one (1) psychologist holding an academic position, provided that there is one available in the Republic.

SPECIALISED PERSONNEL

Cyprus Police recruits, from time to time according to its needs, specialized personnel for carrying out specialized duties. The Chief of Police may, upon approval by the Minister of Justice and Public Order, appoint as a specialized member of the Police at the combined position of Constable (Scale A5 2nd grade), Sergeant (Scale A8), Inspector (Scale A9), Chief Inspector (Scale A10) and Superintendent B' (Scale A12), as provided for in the current state budget in force, a person who

under current legislation is a holder of an accredited University Degree or diploma or other equivalent qualification relevant to the duties of the combined position, as these are set out in its announcement.

In the cases of the specializations of aircraft operator, aircraft mechanical engineer, aircraft electrical engineer, captain of police boats, police boat electrical engineer, police boat electronics engineer and police boat mechanical engineer, the candidates for appointment must be younger than the age of forty (40).

The candidates who meet the pre-requisites as set out in the announcement of the position undergo both a written examination and an interview conducted on the basis of the Law on the Evaluation of Candidates for Appointment to the Public Service.

Further to the above Police General Regulations provide that no one shall be appointed to the Police unless a Narcotest is carried out with a negative result by the State General Laboratory after receiving blood or hair or other appropriate means: Provided that any candidate included in the Recruitment List shall be subject to the above check, in good time before being appointed to the Police. In the case that the candidate refuses to provide the appropriate sample, his/her application for appointment shall be rejected and the name of the candidate shall be deleted from the Recruitment List, regardless of whether he/she holds the qualifications and meets all the other conditions provided by the Police Law and these Regulations.

PHYSICAL CAPACITY TESTING AND THE MINIMUM SUCCESS THRESHOLD

(Regulation 4(1)(i))

1. HAND GRIP STRENGTH TEST

- (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the maximum strength of the forearm muscles for a strong grip and pulling objects.
- (b) **EQUIPMENT:** A calibrated mechanical or electronic dynamometer, type Jamar, with an adjustable grip.
- (c) **PROCEDURE:** The applicant squeezes with his/her right hand the grip of the dynamometer as hard as s/he can, for 2-3 seconds, holding the dynamometer at a distance from his/her body and with the reading indicator facing the examiner. During the test the arm and hand holding the dynamometer must not touch the body. The applicant repeats the same procedure with the left hand and then the sum of both scores, for left and right hands is recorded. Before each applicant is tested and after each attempt the dynamometer must be checked and reset to zero.
- (d) **RESULTS:** The procedure is repeated two times for each hand with a short pause for rest between the first and second attempts. The best result is recorded to the nearest tenth of a kilo.
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 90kg
 - (ii) For Women: 65kg

2. SIT AND REACH TEST

- (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the flexibility of the back muscles and the mobility of the pelvis the hips and hamstrings.
- (b) **EQUIPMENT:** A calibrated in centimetres (cm) mechanical flexibility metre.
- (c) **PROCEDURE:** The applicant is seated on the ground with the soles of his/her feet (without shoes) placed in the designated positions of the machine. The applicant bends

his/her trunk and extends the arms forward, without bending his/her knees. S/he tries to remain still for two seconds, without making any jerky movements.

- (d) **RESULTS:** The procedure is executed twice and the best attempt is recorded. The examiner checks that the applicant's knees do not bend. The applicant's score is determined by the point on the calibrated scale that the applicant can reach with the tips of his/her fingers. The results are recorded in centimetres (cm).
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 0 cm
 - (ii) For Women: 5 cm

3. VERTICAL JUMP TEST

- (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the maximum muscle power and explosiveness of the legs and the jumping ability of the lower limbs.
- (b) **EQUIPMENT:** Electronic Bosco jump mat.
- (c) **PROCEDURE:** The applicant stands on the electronic mat where s/he performs a vertical jump with a swinging motion and the use of the arms. The electronic mat records the duration of the flight of the jump and on this basis, it calculates the vertical jump height, the work produced and leg power. A basic prerequisite is that the applicant must land at the same point on the mat from s/he jumped or began the vertical jump.
- (d) **RESULT:** The applicant must perform two attempts, with a short period of rest allowed between each of the two attempts. The best attempt is recorded in centimetres and to the nearest tenth of a centimetre.
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 40 cm
 - (ii) For Women: 30 cm

4. 30 METRE RUN

- (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To measure the body's ability for speed and acceleration, that is the ability of the body to move and respond quickly and promptly.
- (b) **EQUIPMENT:** Two timers (stop watches), two cones marking the finishing line and a flat and clear 50metre surface.
- (c) **PROCEDURE:** Before the test applicants must prepare appropriately by completing a warm up and stretching exercises. The test begins with the applicant standing with his/her feet behind the starting line, one foot behind the other. As soon as s/he is given a signal by the administrator of the test, s/he begins to run alone, in a straight line, a distance of 30 meters, as fast as possible, without competition.
- (d) **RESULT:** The applicant must perform two attempts, with a short period for rest allowed between each of the two attempts. The best attempt is recorded in seconds and to the nearest tenth of a second.
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 4.5 seconds
 - (ii) For Women: 5.0 seconds

5. 12 MINUTE ENDURANCE TEST

- (a) **AIM OF THE TEST:** To evaluate cardiopulmonary performance under fatigue and the ability of the body to produce prolonged physical activity.

- (b) **EQUIPMENT:** 400 meter running track, at least two timers with the capacity to record multiple measurements, a whistle for signalling the start and termination of the test, two boards on which the names of the applicants in each group will be written along with the numbers that will be attached to each applicant during the test, as well as forms for recording the results of the test showing in detail the number of laps completed by each applicant before the overall completion of the test.
- (c) **MEASURING PROCEDURE:** Before the start of the test the applicants are divided into small groups and each is assigned a number that they have to wear on their chest during the test. The first group of applicants to be tested is allowed a few minutes for a warm up and then they line up behind the starting line so as to begin the test. Upon being given a signal the applicants begin to run for a period of 12 minutes and at each interval they are informed by the timekeepers about their pace, until the completion of the 12 minutes.

Men must complete six (6) turns (2.400 meters) and women five (5) turns (2.000 meters). The applicants start and finish the test at the same point. The applicants, who do complete the set distance within the period of 12 minutes, fail the test and cannot proceed to the following stage of the recruitment process.
- (d) **RESULTS:** Each applicant is allowed one attempt at the test.
- (e) **MINIMUM PASSING SCORE:**
 - (i) For Men: 2.400m
 - (ii) For Women: 2.000m

Call up for Service in the Cyprus Police

According to Police Law (L.73(I)/2004), each member of the Cyprus Police from the time of his recruitment, is considered to be on duty at all times and may at any time be called on duty at any place in the Republic of Cyprus. Furthermore, there are emergency or other action plans, on the basis of which the members of Police are called on duty.

3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

Exemptions from military service, as well as alternatives, are applicable to certain categories of conscripts and are governed by the relevant provisions of the National Guard Law.

3.2.1 Special Military Service

Certain conscripts, who are approved by the competent Medical Committee of the National Guard, will serve a special military service. The duration of the special service is four months more than the compulsory military service the individual would have had. The conscripts following a special military service are placed in Units near their residence and they are assigned specific duties.

3.2.2 Alternative Service

Conscripts, who are recognized as conscientious objectors according to the provisions of the National Guard Law, can choose to serve an alternative military service (unarmed service on military premises) or an alternative communal service within a Department of the Public Sector. It is noteworthy to mention that the conscripts, who wish to be recognized as conscientious objectors, have the opportunity to declare this intention, through an application upon their initial enlistment.

In addition, the conscientious objectors serving an alternative communal service in the Public Sector follow the working hours of the Department/ Division, within which they are placed.

According to the provisions of the National Guard Law, the duration of alternative service for conscientious objectors is as follows:

Alternative Communal Service in the Public Sector

The conscripts, who would have served the 14 - month full service are obliged to serve an additional 5 months.

The conscripts, who would have served 6 months or less than the 14 - month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 4 months.

The conscripts, who would have served less than 6 months, are obliged to serve an additional 3 months.

Alternative Military Service on Military Premises

The conscripts, who would have served the 14 - month full service are obliged to serve an additional 4 months.

The conscripts, who would have served 6 months or less than the 14 – month full service, are obliged to serve an additional 3 months.

The conscripts, who would have served less than 6 months, are obliged to serve an additional 2 months.

3.2.3 Postponements of Military Service Obligation

Certain categories of conscripts are entitled to postponements of their compulsory military service, according to the provisions of the National Guard Law.

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

The international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016, the National Guard Law of 2011 (L.19 (I)/2011 G.G. Ap. No. 4271, 25/2/2021 and other legislation, ensure that all military personnel are treated fairly and equally in legal and administrative matters.

In particular, regarding the administrative procedures, every member of the army has the right to lodge administrative complaints against any act or order which he/she considers unfair, according to the Disciplinary Regulations of the National Guard. Moreover, special administrative appeals are provided for promotions and retirements of officers and non-commissioned officers according to the relevant Regulations. In general, all members of the Army have the civil right to table petitions as a direct and meaningful democratic instrument which is provided for both in the Constitution and in the General Administrative Law Principles Law 1999 (158(I)/1999).

In the field of judicial protection, the rights of all military personnel are protected by judicial system of the Republic and the military justice system, consisting mainly of the Military Court.

It is noteworthy to mention that certain rights of military personnel are limited during military service, in accordance with the provisions of part IX of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No 4560, 08/04/2016). Regarding the right to form professional unions, the military personnel of the National Guard have established two professional associations, one for officers and one for non-commissioned officers, in exercise of a right

granted to them by Article 59 of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560,08/04/2016).

3.4 Issues pertaining to women, peace and security

As shown in the attached ANNEX

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

International Humanitarian Law and the Law of War are taught within the Military Academies and schools that personnel attend, as well as through relevant seminars and lectures that are conducted within the military service.

In addition, instructions on international humanitarian law and other international rules, conventions and commitments governing armed conflict form part of the training programmes for all military personnel.

In this framework, military personnel receive training on issues regarding the Geneva and Hague Conventions, International Law of Armed Conflict, Peaceful Settlement of international Conflicts, Sanctions against war crimes and crimes against humanity, protection of property and others.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

The issues of national and international law concerning the administration of military personnel are included within the General Training Guidelines of the National Guard, which are duly publicized to all military personnel. Furthermore, these issues are included within the training modules of all military personnel, whether conscripts or ranking officials.

4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

All the selection procedures considering army personnel, do not include any criteria relating to national, religious, cultural and linguistic identity.

In addition, according to the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36 (I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No 4560, 08/04/2016, and the National Guard Law of 2011 (L.19 (I)/2011 G.G. Ap. No. 4271, 25/02/2011), the purpose, the functionalities and the competences of the Army are clearly defined and exclusively concern the assurance of defense, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic against external threats. Exceptionally, the Army may, under urgent circumstances and upon invitation, assist the competent authorities of the Republic to confront dangers that threaten the life and property of citizens, such as natural disasters.

4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member's exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country's armed forces are politically neutral?

The international treaties and agreements to which the Republic of Cyprus is a party, the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016, the National Guard Law of 2011 (L.19 (I)/2011 G.G. Ap. No. 4271, 25/2/20211 and other legislation ensure that all military personnel are treated fairly and equally in legal and administrative matters.

Although military personnel enjoy their constitutional and legal rights during military service, certain rights are subject to restrictions in accordance with the provisions of part IX of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016).

The members of the armed forces are allowed to exercise their civilian rights as individuals, through Article 31 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus of 1960, which amongst other, mentions that a citizen has the right to vote in any election, conducted according to the Constitution or other legislation.

The Ministry of Defence disseminates the text of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security to the military personnel who are regularly familiarized with the content of the Code.

The political neutrality of the armed forces is ensured, according to the provisions of article 56 of the Army of the Republic Law of 2016 (L.36(I)/2016 G.G. Ap. I (I), No.4560, 8/4/2016).

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

The Defence Policy of the Republic of Cyprus has developed around the following four basic pillars and targets:

- To preserve peace on the island by creating the necessary level of deterrence against any kind of military threat and to reinforce the necessary security conditions needed for Cypriot citizens to live, prosper and contribute to the Republic's economic growth and welfare.
- To defend the Republic's territorial integrity, national independence and sovereignty and the security of its people from any armed attack or threat.
- To participate in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union.
- To contribute towards international peace, security and stability. In this context, the defence policy and doctrine of the Republic is always implemented in a manner that takes into account all the deriving obligations from international law.

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

The public may receive information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Defence.

1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

Any information concerning the Code of Conduct may be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Defence.

1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

The Government is committed by the Constitution to provide public access to information. In this respect, the Ministry of Defence provides information to the public on the role and activities of the National Guard, unless it is restricted from doing so for national security reasons.

The Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the National Guard has created an internet site, which is continuously updated, in the framework of facilitating the unimpeded dissemination of information.

2. Contact information

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1325 – WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

(Report according to Indicative List of Issues Pertaining to Women, Peace and Security to be provided in the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct)

1. PREVENTION**A. Checklist of key commitments taken by participating States****LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to protecting women, peace and security. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing inter-ministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.)

Name of the treaty		Party by: ratification P(R) , accession P(a) , succession P(s) , acceptance P(A) , approval P(AA) , or Not party	Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, acceptance, or approval
Universal legal instruments			
1.	Protocol Supplementary to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)	P(R)	Law No.11 (III)/2003 06/08/2003
2.	United Nations Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	P(a)	Law No.78/1985 23/07/1985
The Council of Europe legal instruments			
3.	European Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) CETS No: 197	P(R)	Law No.38 (III)/2007 24/10/2007
4.	European Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (2011) CETS No: 210	P(R)	Law No.14 (III)/2017 10/11/2017

	Other arrangements	Yes	No
5.	National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325	X	
6.	National legislation to implement the UN CEDAW convention (if a party), with particular reference to combating discrimination in employment, education, access to health services and participation in institutions ensuring democratic oversight and public scrutiny of the security sector.		
7.	Other related information, clarification or details to share:		

B. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States

Please indicate if your State has the following preventative measures in place. More detailed information of the preventative measure can be included in Part B below.

	Type of Measure	Yes	No
1.	Mechanism to assess risk of abuse of small arms to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence and violence against women and children	X	
2.	Inclusion of women's organisations and women in religious, ethnic minority or community groups in measures - to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism - to raise awareness of the potential risks of exploitation and radicalization ¹	X	
3.	Inclusion of gender perspective and special needs of women and girls in a national counter-terrorism strategy ²		
4.	Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the basic education of armed forces.	X	
5.	Availability of specialised in-service training for armed forces personnel on the protection of women's and girl's rights.	X	
6.	Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the pre-deployment training for international peacekeeping missions.	X	
7.	Plans to address and gather information from local women's populations in areas at risk of conflicts.		X
8.	Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of gender mainstreaming into operations	X	
9.	Feedback mechanisms: - from operations to chiefs of defence or military planners - between forces leading multi-national missions and forces providing personnel to such missions		X
10.	Membership of a regional network or leadership network such as the WPS Chiefs of Defence Network		X
11.	Other related information, clarification or details to share:		

¹ See also similar question 3a in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

² See also similar question 3a in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

C. More detailed information for sharing good practice between participating States

1 National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

1.1 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how is your NAP developed, implemented and its impact assessed, including involvement of women's organizations and other civil society organizations and co-ordination across government?

The first National Action Plan (NAP) was adopted in 2020 after broad consultation with all relevant parties and through a substantial dialogue with the civil society. That plan is to be implemented for the period 2021-2025. In particular, the preparation of the NAP was coordinated by the Office of the Gender Equality Commissioner in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the input of the National Mechanism for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order - Police and the Equality Unit, Ministry of Defense - of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of the Interior - Asylum Service, Department of Population and Immigration Records - Civil Defense, the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights, the Office of the Greek Cypriot Negotiator for the Cyprus Conflict, Non-Governmental Organizations and civil society in general. It is a comprehensive action plan with four main pillars: Participation and Empowerment, Protection, Prevention and Promotion and Information about the Resolution. In order to implement the main pillars, a series of targeted actions have been adopted, which will be systematically monitored and evaluated. More specifically, through the Action Plan, the framework is set for a coherent horizontal policy, which creates the appropriate synergies between the agencies involved and aims to further strengthen cooperation in order to fill an existing gap and offer substantial protection to girls and women. The Action Plan includes and involves almost all Ministries/ Departments of the Republic of Cyprus.

Additionally, a National Strategy for Gender Equality was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus and entered into force beginning of January 2024, including different thematic areas and a great number of actions and policies to be implemented by the government within a period of three years, 2024-2026.

1.2 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, who takes the lead and owns the budget? What contribution is made by your defense ministry and security forces?

The Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality has an overall budget of €180000 plus an additional amount (approximately €60000) for the implementation of NAP's actions. Ministries, Deputy Ministries and Commissioners who participate in the NAP, include in their annual budgets, the amounts needed to implement their actions regarding UNSC Resolution 1325.

1.3 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how does the NAP support enhancement of institutional capacity in defense and security?

As part of the National Strategy, adopted in 2024, an action has been adopted with a view to mapping the needs and knowledge of male and female members of the

National Guard and the Ministry of Defence on equality issues (indicative budget of 10,000 euros for 2024-26). Another action has also been adopted with a view to provide training on gender equality (indicative budget of 16,000 euros for 2024-2026 to be implemented by the MoD)

1.4 In case you have a National Action Plan on WPS, how do you publicize progress on implementation of your NAP?

The Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality has set up a monitoring and evaluation Committee consisting of nine representatives including government, Civil Society and the academic community. The Committee is an advisory body that will have meetings every 6 months and will decide the way to publicize the progress on implementation of the NAP.

2 Measures to prevent sexual and gender-based harm

2.1 Horizon scanning, intelligence and risk?

- How do you include systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflict, including gender disaggregated socio-economic indicators, power over resources and decision-making, increases in sexual and gender-based violence, on-line and other threats of violence against women in public life, journalists and those providing humanitarian assistance?

- How do you incorporate a gender perspective into actions preventing and combatting the tensions which lead to conflict, such as increases in sexual and gender-based violence, terrorism, violent extremism and human trafficking?

- What is the role of your military, police and other security personnel in such activities

2.2 Planning.

- How do you incorporate a gender perspective into operational planning?

For the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), a Military Advisory Council for the Promotion of Gender Equality was established since 2019.

This Military Advisory Council is made up of 3 women and 2 men, Officers of the Army of the Republic.

The role of the above Council is, among others, as follows:

- (a) Advocate for gender equality and promote policies to increase the presence of women at all levels of the Army.
- (b) Ensuring that gender specificities are taken into account in the implementation of Army actions.
- (c) Encouraging members of the Army to co-operate and contribute to its activities and report on gender equality issues.
- (d) Inform members of the Army of the impact of armed conflict on both sexes and the value of women's involvement in conflict resolution and decision-making.
- (e) Organize seminars and experiential workshops to train members of the Army, regardless of their position, in order to inform them on gender equality issues.

- How do you plan to address and gather information from local women's populations in areas at risk of conflict?

The Republic of Cyprus participates in one peacekeeping mission (UNIFIL), with a low number of military personnel (2), hence it has not developed information gathering mechanisms.

2.3 Awareness and understanding of WPS at all levels and types of security personnel.

- What training do you give on incorporating a gender perspective and protecting the rights of women and girls to security personnel at basic education, officer training and specialized in-service training?

By organizing seminars and experiential workshops to train members of the Army, regardless of their position. Training of this nature is included in all basic schools from which each member of the National Guard is required to graduate for promotion to a higher rank.

Within the framework of the new National Strategy for Gender Equality 2024-2026, the efforts is to mainstream gender horizontal in all ministries actions and policies. Towards this direction gender focal points in all ministries have been appointed. The office of the commissioner has organized three different rounds of discussions with gender focal points discussing gender equality and protecting of the rights of women. Furthermore and in the context of the Ministry of Defense, specifically, targeted and systematic trainings of all ranks serving in the National Guard, including soldiers on a contact basis, Ministry of Defence personnel and National Guardsmen (through different means – workshops, electronic and/or audio-visual materials, conferences) are being programmed. The main scope is to train the military personnel in the basic principles governing gender equality, with the aim of deconstructing stereotypes and establishing a culture.

- How do you train security personnel to protect women and girls, men and boys from sexual and gender-based violence?³

Cyprus Police and the National Guard organize seminars for their personnel which include training on human rights and preventing violence against women. The new strategy includes a provision for the creation of gender equality committee at the Cyprus Fire Service and Prison Department. One of the aims is the systematic trainings on gender equality.

2.4 Vetting of security personnel, especially pre-deployment

- What measures do you take to vet and prevent the recruitment, retention, promotion and deployment of security personnel with a record of sexual or gender-based violence or other violations of human rights?⁴

Committing acts of sexual or gender-based violence or other violations, constitutes a disciplinary and/or criminal offense, which is recorded in the personal service file of

³ See also similar question 6a in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

⁴ See also similar question 2 and 8 in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

the offender and has potential consequences for his career development as well as a possible exclusion from participating in peacekeeping operations.

2.5 Other preventative measures

- What other preventative measures do you have, for example to prevent sexual abuse or sexual exploitation on deployments and other forms of engagement of security forces abroad?⁵

The Republic of Cyprus participates in one peacekeeping mission (UNIFIL), with a low number of military personnel (2), hence it has not defined such preventative measures.

3. Leadership, accountability and assurance

3.1 Integrating WPS into the command climate

- How do you integrate a gender perspective and WPS into your policy and operational framework, including military manuals, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct, protocols, standard operating procedures and command directives?

As already mentioned above, the manual of International Humanitarian Law for members of the Army has recently been revised. This manual includes specific reference to the protection of women and other special categories (such as children) during armed conflicts.

Furthermore, a Code of Conduct for personnel serving in military and civilian missions in respect of their obligations to respect the rights of women and girls during conflicts and peace processes has been developed in cooperation with the office of Gender Equality Commissioner. See more details in paragraph 5 "FINAL REFLECTION".

3.2 Accountability and Performance assessment

- What measures, systems or procedures do you have on individual and collective accountability for acting in accordance with such policies or directives?

The members of the National Guard are bound by their duties and the relevant legislation (both related to the Army and more generally the legislation with which relevant international conventions were ratified) for the faithful observance of such policies and directives.

3.3 Assurance

- How do you provide specialist advice to operational commanders on WPS?

They may at any time receive compliant advice from the legal counsel serving in the National Guard General Staff and the Department of Defense. They receive education of a more general nature in the context of the trainings they receive and the schools from which they graduate compulsorily for their advancement.

³ See also similar question 6a in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

⁴ See also similar question 2 and 8 in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

⁵ See also similar question question 7 in the NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

The Gender Advisor of the National Guard organizes educational seminars to provide all the necessary information about WPS.

- *What systems or measures do you use to co-ordinate specialist advice on WPS throughout your security forces and to provide democratic oversight?*

The aforementioned seminars are coordinated, where necessary, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies of the Republic of Cyprus that have a policy making role on WPS issues, by co-shaping the National Action Plan.

4 Sharing of good practice

4.1 *How do you share good practice and learn from others?*

2 PARTICIPATION

A. Checklist of key measures taken by participating States

Please indicate if your State has the following measures in place to increase women's participation in security forces and decision making, including at all stages of any peace-making process. More detailed information of such measure can be included in Part B below.

	Type of Measure	Yes	No
1.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics on applicants to armed forces	X	
2.	Policies to attract female candidates (targeted campaigns, review of accession tests etc)	X	
3.	Policies to promote equal opportunities for women and men across the security sector	X	
4.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of armed forces personnel: - By rank - By promotion - By retention	X	
5.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by armed forces personnel of: - Discrimination - sexual harassment - gender based harassment - sexual violence - gender-based violence	X	
6.	Collection and monitoring of sex disaggregated statistics of complaints by civilian personnel in the security sector of: - discrimination - sexual harassment - gender based harassment - sexual violence - gender-based violence	X	
7.	Anonymous staff surveys/climate assessment surveys or similar (monitoring incidences of behaviour contrary to military standards of conduct)	X	

8.	Collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated statistics of: - personnel deployed on operations and peace-keeping missions - and by rank		X
9.	Collection and monitoring of sex-disaggregated statistics of decision makers in the security sector		X
10.	Other related information, clarification or details to share:		

B. More detailed information for sharing good practice on participative measures between participating States

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defense (and other security forces- optional).

1.1 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men applying for and recruited to your military forces?

During the previous year:

- a) 185 men's applications were submitted for recruitment to Officer and NCO Military Academies and 99 of them were finally accepted, while 361 men's applications were submitted to be classified as professional soldiers and 172 were accepted.
- b) 11 applications from women were submitted for Officer and NCO Military Academies and 3 were hired, while 361 men's applications were submitted to be classified as professional soldiers and 172 of them were accepted.

1.2 What are the numbers and percentages of women and men in your military forces, disaggregated by rank?

- Officers

- a) Second Lieutenants and equivalents: 8 women, 153 men (4,96% women, 95,04% men)
- b) Lieutenants and equivalents: 8 women, 211 men (3,65% women, 96,35% men)
- c) Captains and equivalents: 5 women, 275 men (2,85% women, 97,15% men)
- d) Majors and equivalents: 5 women, 218 men (2,24% women, 97,76% men)
- e) Lieutenant Colonels equivalents: 12 women, 169 men (6,62% women, 93,8% men)
- f) Colonels and equivalents: 0 women, 53 men (100% men)
- g) Brigadier Generals: 0 women, 9 men (100% men)
- h) Major Generals: 0 women, 2 men (100% men)
- i) Lieutenant Generals: 0 women, 1 man (100% man)

- Non-commissioned officers

- a) Professional soldiers and equivalents: 562 women, 2043 men (21,57% women, 78,43% men)
- b) Sergeants and equivalents: 57 women, 199 men (19,29% women, 77,74% men)
- c) Staff Sergeants and equivalents: 192 women, 803 men (19,29% women, 80,71% men)

- d) Master Sergeants and equivalents: 99 women, 631 men (13,56% women, 86,44% men)
- e) Warrant Officers and equivalents: 66 women, 244 men (21,29% women, 78,71% men)

1.3 *If you regularly analyze retention and promotion statistics disaggregated by gender and rank, what are the trends and what action, if any, are you taking as a result?*

In accordance with the legislation retentions and promotions are carried out regardless of gender.

1.4 *What are the numbers and percentages of complaints raised by women and men about discrimination, harassment, sexual or gender-based violence?*

In the last two years there were 2 cases of sexual harassment reported by women.

1.5 *How do you monitor outcomes?*

For each complaint, an administrative investigation is carried out and the whole procedure is monitored by the competent Department of Personnel of the National Guard Staff. If criminal responsibilities arise, the case is followed by the judicial authorities.

1.6 *How is a gender-perspective integrated into a 'climate assessment' or similar anonymous staff survey, if used?*

Given that gender equality is provided for in the legislation, there are no procedures to integrate gender-perspective into a climate assessment.

2 Measures to increase the numbers of women and specialist WPS advisers in peacekeeping forces.⁶

2.1 *What are the numbers and percentages of women and men in peacekeeping forces, disaggregated by rank?*

The National Guard participates in UNIFIL with 1 male Officer (Major) and one male NCO. No interest was expressed in filling the position by women personnel.

2.2 *What are the numbers and percentages of international missions to which you appointed Gender Advisers, Gender Focal Points or Women Protection Advisers?*

The National Guard General Staff has not appointed any personnel to the aforementioned positions.

3 Democratic oversight of Security Forces and WPS

3.1 *How do your security forces publicize, report on and account for their actions on policies and plans related to WPS?*

The Ministry of Defense reports to the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, which is appointed by the Commissioner of Gender Equality.

⁶ See also similar question B1 in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report.

3.2 What is the representation of women in decision-making positions in institutions ensuring democratic oversight and public scrutiny?

3. PROTECTION

A. Checklist of measures taken by participating States

Please indicate if your State has the following protective measures in place. More detailed information of the protective measure can be included in Part B below.

	Type of Measure	Yes	No
1.	Specialist Advisers on WPS: - Gender Advisers - Gender Focal Points - Women Protection Advisers	X	
2.	Policies to protect women and others in conflict and post-conflict areas from sexual abuse and exploitation by your State's security personnel ⁷		
3.	Policies which set out the duties of commanders and other superiors to prevent abuse or exploitation by their subordinates.	X	
4.	Collection and monitoring of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces: -referred -investigated - acted upon	X	
5.	Measures to increase your State's capacity to investigate alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in areas of conflict or post-conflict including sexual and gender-based violence ⁸	X	
6.	National legislation conferring powers to prosecute alleged extra-terrestrial violations of human rights	X	
7.	Other related information, clarification or details to share:		

B. More detailed information for sharing good practice on protective measures between participating States

1 Measures to embed protection of women and girls in operations and international missions

1.1 How do you define conflict-related violence in your policies, manuals, standard operating procedures and training material?

- Does it include sexual and gender-based violence, forced sterilisations and abductions, also of men and boys, and forced pregnancy and forced abortions?
- Does it include victims of terrorism or other armed groups?

⁷ See also similar question B2 in form to input to UN SG UNSCR 1325 report as well as question 3a in NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

⁸ See also similar question 4a in Similar question in NATO Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Implementation Progress Report.

1.2 Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

The Republic of Cyprus does not participate in international peacekeeping missions in postings especially related with issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports, due to the small number of its military personnel.

1.3 How are military, para-military and security forces trained to respond to sexual violence and gender-based harm?

The Gender Advisor of the National Guard organizes occasionally educational seminars to provide all the necessary information about sexual violence and gender-based-harm.

2 Investigating alleged violations

2.1 How do you identify, record, investigate and prosecute any alleged violations, cases of exploitation and abuse perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces? What experience do you have of such investigations and prosecutions?

Alleged violations are reported to the competent administrative authorities and administrative investigation procedures are carried out with a potential engagement of judicial authorities, in case of indication of a criminal offense violation. Due to the significantly small number of reports, no reliable conclusions can be drawn. The reports were related with sexual harassment and no other kind of violation such as sexual abuse or exploitation was ever reported.

2.2 What are the number and percentage of reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces that are referred, investigated and acted upon?

There was no reported case of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by National Guard military personnel.

2.3 How do you ensure access to justice for victims of conflict related violence including cases of exploitation and abuse by military, para-military and security forces?

3 Other measures to protect women and girls

3.1 What lessons could you share in relation to protective measures?

In the context of the continuous strengthening of the position of women in the National Guard, especially after the recruitment of female contract soldiers in 2017, the facilities for their safe and comfortable living within the military premises have been improved and will be further improved for the performance of their normal duties as well as for the performance of special tasks with an overnight stay.

It is also considered very important to note that the training (eg participation in military exercises, participation in military training schools or colleges, etc.) provided to both men and women performing the same duties is not differentiated in any way. The same applies for the recruitment and the promotion criteria for each military rank, which do not differ according to gender.

4. SUSTAINING PEACE

Checklist of key measures taken by participating States

Please indicate if your State has the following measures in place to sustain peace, especially with regard to relief and recovery and to post-conflict situations. More detailed information of such measures can be included in Part B below.

	Type of Measure	Yes	No
1.	Measures to ensure the involvement of women from the outset in seeking a peaceful settlement of potential or actual conflicts.	X	
2.	Measures to support those who have experienced sexual or gender-based violence during or post-conflict to support their recovery from trauma		X
3.	Measures to support the role of women as agents of change and transformation in areas emerging from conflict	X	
4.	Measures to support capacity building in the security and other sectors of fragile states or post-conflict situations to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially relating to women and girls	X	
5.	Other related information, clarification or details to share:		

A. More detailed information for sharing good practice between participating States

1.1 *How do security personnel support and seek to embed the involvement of women in peacekeeping and throughout the peace building and post-conflict process?*

1.2 *What training are your security personnel given as regards survivor focus*

The Officer participating in UNIFIL, prior to his deployment, has to attend a three-week UN Military Observers Course, where he receives training, among other things, on specific issues related to the protection of civilians and vulnerable populations.

1.3 *What roles do your security personnel or other personnel play in support of demobilization, access to humanitarian assistance or to facilitate re-integration post-conflict?*

1.4 *What lessons could you share in relation to recovery and relief issues in the WPS agenda?*

5. FINAL REFLECTIONS

1. *What do you consider biggest obstacles as well as what are the priorities for your country on WPS in the context of the Code of Conduct?*

The active participation of women within the traditional security sectors is crucial. At the same time, we aim to re-frame gender equality to its basis and make clear that gender equality is not a competition between women and men.

We aim to create an environment that will enable women to actively participate in order to use both women's and men's diverse experiences as an added value to security

and defense to lead to peace. In parallel, we are under the process of drafting and implementing our own plans with a gender angle. At the same time, we aim to also involve the civil society in this process and communicate better with them and support women's movements.

2. Would you like to share any additional information, clarification or details?

The Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality issued a Conduct Guide for Personnel Serving in Military and Political Missions. The Conduct Guide is a useful and supportive document from which military and civilian mission personnel can draw guidance in the performance of their duties and mission. From this they can get information about good practices of other countries as well as practical examples of incident management. They can additionally study the multi-level guidelines that have been prepared specifically for them based on international and European practices, so that their action is consistent with the requirements of Resolution 1325. With the Guide, staff also have the opportunity to come into contact with the main concepts concerning the dimension of gender, as the conceptual clarification is a crucial process for the correct evaluation of their actions. Finally, the Conduct Guide includes useful sources of information for military and civilian mission personnel that can—and should—be used in the performance of frontline officer duties.

For the preparation of this Guide and a better understanding of the conditions and needs of each service, interviews have been conducted with various services of the Republic. Specifically, they have conducted interviews with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of its National Guard Republic of Cyprus.

It is also important to be noted that:

- (a) With the enactment of amending Regulations 28/2016 concerning non-commissioned Officers (NCO's) and the simultaneous abolishment of Regulations on women who served in the army as NCO's (Regulations 311/1993), matters concerning both women and men NCOs are regulated by the same legislation.
- (b) In addition, in 2016 the National Guard Law [Law 19(I)/2011] has been amended with Law 82(I)/2016 in order to be possible for women to be recruited as contract soldiers.

There is no other legislation under the competence of the Ministry of Defense that requires amendment for eliminating any form of discrimination.

**INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

A. International legal framework and commitments

1. Please indicate if your State is a party to or has endorsed the following international legal instruments or voluntary commitments. Please also kindly elaborate in case of any reservations or interpretative statements.

	YES	NO	Reservations/ Interpretative Statements
Convention on the Rights of the Child	X		
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	X		X
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	X		X
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on a communication procedure	X		X
ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour	X		
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction	X		
Safe Schools Declaration	X		
Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups	X		
Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers		X	
Political Declaration on EWIPA (Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas)	X		

B. National measures to end and prevent CAAC violations.

1. What is the minimum legal age for recruitment (including voluntary recruitment) for service in military, paramilitary and security forces in your State?

According to Article 18 (1) of the National Guard Laws of 2011 to 2022, all citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, from 1 January of the year in which they reach the eighteenth (18th) year of age and until 31 December of the year in which they reach the fiftieth (50th) year of age, are obliged to perform military service in the Force.

Pursuant to Article 28 (1) of the said Laws, the invitation of soldiers to join the Force is made by a decree of the Council of Ministers, issued on the proposal of the Minister of Defence and after taking into account the views of the Chief of the Force, which is published in the Official Newspaper of the Republic.

Pursuant to paragraph (2) (b) of the said article, the Council of Ministers may, by decree under subsection (1), authorise the voluntary enlistment in the Force, for the purpose of serving, of citizens of the Republic who have attained the age of seventeen (17) years on the date of their enlistment. Pursuant to paragraph (3) of the same article, the voluntary enlistment of those who fall under paragraph (b) of subsection (2) shall require the submission by them of a written declaration of their wish and the consent of their parent or guardian.

2. If the legal age for recruitment is set below 18 years, what measures are taken to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, with particular regard to the obligation that children do not directly participate in hostilities and are not subject to mandatory recruitment?

In order to comply, to the utmost degree, with the provisions of the Optional Protocol, the following measures and reforms were implemented, in the context of the policy of the Government of Cyprus and the Ministry of Defence to reorganise and reform the National Guard.

1) Reduction of the duration of the full compulsory military service of conscripts from 24 to 14 months by the decision of the Council of Ministers dated 5/9/2016 which was published in the Official Newspaper of the Republic on 9/9/2016.

2) Adoption of a new model with the creation of a semi-professional army from 2016, with the recruitment of professional contract soldiers (SYOP).

3) As of 2018, the National Guard has limited its enlistment process from two cycles, previously conducted in January and July, to only one, exclusively in July. Consequently, individuals aged 17 ½ years or older are eligible for enlistment. Those opting for voluntary service, as per current legislation, must be at least 17 years old; however, this cohort remains marginal in numbers.

4) In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers dated 9/1/2018, the age of first enrolment of children in the first grade of primary school will be increased from 5 years and 10 months to 6 years before September 1 of the school year they are slated to attend. This adjustment will consequently raise the age of completion of secondary education and, by extension, the age of enlistment in the National Guard. As a result, recruitment will predominantly occur after individuals reach adulthood.

Given the aforementioned considerations, the Ministry of Defence has been actively implementing necessary reforms in alignment with both domestic developments and the European legislative framework. These reforms have been ongoing for several years, particularly addressing issues pertinent to the National Guard, notably the duration of full military service. However, it is essential to acknowledge the unique circumstances persisting on our island, primarily stemming from the occupation of part of the territory by Turkish troops. The exigencies of the National Guard cannot be overlooked in light of these circumstances, a reality that partially constrains our ability to swiftly adhere to the directives periodically issued by European Institutions. This is particularly evident concerning conscripts stationed in hostile areas, a constraint acknowledged during the ratification of the Protocol.

3. Please indicate if your State has any national reference document (for example in the form of laws, regulations, policies or action plans) on issues related to the protection of children in armed conflicts. YES

4. Do the military doctrine and guidance of your State include issues related to children and armed conflict, with particular regard to the six grave violations identified by the UN Security Council: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, abduction, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, attacks on schools and hospitals and military use of schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access to children? YES

5. How is the protection of children – especially with regard to the above-mentioned six grave violations - included in military planning and other operational considerations, including rules of engagement as relevant? Are there mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of such specific child protection procedures into operations? YES

<i>If relevant, please also indicate if your States has:</i>	YES	NO
reporting mechanisms specifically related to incidents involving children from operations to chiefs of defence or military planners and between forces leading multi-national missions and forces providing personnel to such missions	X	
mechanisms to collect and monitor reported cases of exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by military, para-military and security forces	X	
mechanism to assess risk of abuse of small arms to commit or facilitate serious acts against children	X	
mechanisms to collect within military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects disaggregated information per sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity of children affected by armed conflicts	X	
mechanisms to protect the anonymity and personal data of children affected by armed conflicts collected during military operations, humanitarian activities or development cooperation projects	X	

If yes, please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.

6. How does the protection of schools in situations of armed conflicts feature in the military planning and other operational considerations of your State, including rules of engagement as relevant?

C. Education and training activities for troops on CAAC issues

1. Do your armed forces receive dedicated training on issues related to children and armed conflict? YES

<i>If relevant, please also indicate if:</i>	YES	NO
Specific matters related to children and armed conflict/child protection are included in the basic education of armed forces	X	
Specialised in-service and/or pre-deployment trainings on children and armed conflict/child protection are available	X	
Dedicated modules on children and armed conflict/child protection are included in the pre-deployment training for deployment of national contingents or individuals to international peacekeeping missions and military deployments.	X	
First aid courses and other medical trainings of armed forces to prevent and respond to child casualties are available	X	
Adequate mental health support is provided pre, during and post-deployment for military encountering children during military operations	X	

If yes, please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.

2. Does your State ban military training involving the use of firearms for children under the age of 18 years? AS REF: B 2 (3)

D. International partnerships

1. In case of collaboration and training programmes of your State with other States, to what extent are issues related to children and armed conflict addressed and included, in particular for those countries that are mentioned in the UN Secretary General annual report on children and armed conflict?

2. Does your State support capacity building initiatives in the security and other sectors of other States, in particular those in conflict or post-conflict situations, which include the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect of international humanitarian law? If yes, to what extent are issues related to children and armed conflict addressed in those measures?

3. Please add any relevant information or comments with the view of sharing/identifying best practices.